## CRUCIFIXION OF PHILIP STRONG

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAP- | church stirred. Every one seemed Chapter I.-Philip Strong, a minister, receives two calls, one to a college town, where he may live a quiet, scholarly life, to his liking, the other to a manufacturing town, where there is plenty of work to do among the laboring classes. He accepts the more active field. II and III .- Philip discovers that a number of his wealthy parishioners have property rented for saloons and gambling houses. He interviews one of them and is advised that he had better not stir up the subject, and Mr. Win-ter, one of his most prominent parishioners, having property rented for such purposes, rises from his seat and walks out of the church. The next morning Winter calls on the minister and resents what he calls an insult to himself, then, threatening to withdraw his support from the church, retires in high dudgeon. The sermon creates great excitement, and next Sunday a large crowd attends Philip's church, expecting a sensational sermon, but Philip disappoints them, preaching on a different subject entirely. IV.—Philip attacks the saloons and preaches against the saloons are congregation. He calls them to a large congregation. He calls upon the people to join with him in an attempt to exterminate them. Later he leaves his house to visit a sick chiid, and a man on the opposite side of the street fires two shots at him. V.—Philip has been severely though not mortally wounded. His assissin is arrested and at Philip's request, is brought before him. Philip assures him that he bears him no ill will and prays for him. VI.—Philip preaches on the Sunday question and makes new enemies. Coming home one type floor, a finds his wife in a faint on the floor, a knife stuck into the desk and two knife stuck into the desk and two Coming home one evening, he anonymous scrawls, one addressed "To the Preacher." the other, "To the Preacher's Wife." VII.—They were warnings to leave the town. The minister's wife begs her husband to leave the field for another, but instead he prepares to continue the war against the devil there and in his own fashion. VIII.-Philip astonishes his parishioners by proposing to move their church edifice into the tenement district. He speaks to the laboring men at their and unintentionally influences them and unintentionally influences them against the rich by holding up the against the rich by holding up the against the rich by holding up the segainst the rich by holding up the selfishness of many rich people. When he goes home he is informed that a mob is threatening Mr. Winter at his residence, IX.—Philip goes to the scene of the trouble and rescues Wr. Winter from the mob. and XI.—Philip preaches against wasteful expenditures when the poor are in peed and is visited. hen the poor are in need and is visited by a stranger, who asks for food and helter, who tells his benefactor that he lives too extravagantly for one who preaches against extravagance. Philip calls him "Brother Man." XII.—Philip takes the words of the stranger to heart and acts upon them. quests his congregation to reduce his salary one-half and fit up the parsonage for a refuge for homeless children. XIII.

-Philip discusses his proposition with

the votes cast. (Continued.)

church committee on admission.

by the "Brother Man," who encour-

church, a negro, is converted and desires to join the church. XV.—Philip

presents the name of the sexton to the

the candidate receives a majority of

The sexton of Philip's

CHAPTER XVI.

The day was beautiful and the church as usual crowded to the doors. There was a feeling of hardly concealed excitment on the part of Calvary church. The action of Thursday night en sharply criticised. Very many thought Philip had gone beyond his right in bringing such an important subject before so small a meeting of the members, and the prospect of the approaching baptism and communion of the sexton had drawn in a crowd of people who ordinarily stayed away from Philip generally had no preaching on

communion Sunday. This morning remained on the platform after opening exercises, and in a stillness was almost painful in its tensity he began to speak in a low but clear and impressive voice;

"Fellow disciples of the church of Christ on earth, we meet to celebrate the memory of that greatest of all beings, who, on the eve of His own greatest agony, prayed that His disciples might all be one. In that prayer He said nothing about color or race or difference of speech or social surroundings. His prayer was that his disciples might all be one—one in their aims, in their purposes, their sympathy, their faith, their hope, their love "An event has happened in this church very recently which makes it necessary for me to say these words. The Holy Spirit came into this room last Sunday and touched the hearts of several young men, who gave themselves then and there to the Lord Jesus Christ. Among the men was one of another race than the Anglo-Saxon. He was a black man. His heart was melted by the same love, his mind illuminated by the same truth. He sired to make confession of his belief, be baptized according to the commands of Jesus and unite with this church as a humble disciple of the lowly Nazarene. His name was presented with the rest at the regular committee meet-ing last Monday, and that committee, by a vote of 3 to 2, refused to present name with recommendations for membership. On my own responsibility at the preparatory service Thursday night I asked the church to act upon this disciple's name. There was a legal quorum of the church present. By a vote of 26 to 12 the applicant for membership was received according to

the rules of this church. "But after that meeting the man came to me and said that he was unwilling to unite with the church, knowing that some objected to his membership. It was a natural feeling for him to have. We had a long talk over the matter. Since then I have learned that if a larger representation of members had been present at the preparatory meeting there is a possibility that the number voting against receiving the applicant would have been much

larger than those who voted for him.
"Under all these circumstances I have deemed it my duty to say what I have thus far said and to ask the church to take the action I now proprose. We are met here this morning in full membership. Here is a soul just led out of the darkness by the spirit of truth. He is one known to many of you as an honest, worthy man, for many years faithful in the discharge of his duties in this house. There is no Christian reason why he should be denied fellowship around this table. wish, therefore, to ask the members of the church to vote again on the acdisciple of Jesus, who has asked for admission to this body of Christ in His name. Will all those in favor of thus receiving our brother into the great family of faith signify it by rais-

ing the right hand?" For a moment not a person in the smitten into astonished inaction by the sudden proposal of the minister. hands began to go up. Philip counted them, his heart beating with anguish foresaw the coming result. walted a minute-it seemed to many ike several minutes—and then said, 'All those opposed to the admission of the applicant signify it by the same

Again there was the same significant, reluctant pause, then half a dozen the house hands went up in numbers that almost doubled those who had voted in favor of admission. From the gallery on the sides, where several of Philip's workmen friends sat, a hiss arose. It was slight, but heard by the entire congregation. Philip glanced up

there, and it instantly ceased.

Without another word he stepped down from the platform and began to read the list of those who had been resolved the list of ceived into church membership. He had almost reached the end of it when a person whose name was called last rose from his seat near the front, where all the newly received members were in the habit of sitting together, and, turning partly around so as face the congregation and still address he said:

Mr. Strong, I do not feel as if, after what has taken place here this morning, I could unite with this church. This man who has been excluded from church membership is the son of a woman born into slavery on the estate of one of my relatives. That slave woman once nursed her master through a terrible illness and saved his life her son, was then a little child. But in the strange changes that have gone on since the war the son of the old master has been reduced to poverty and obliged to work for a living. He is now in this town. He is this very day lying upon a sick bed in man has for several weeks out of hi small earnings helped the son of his mother's master and cared for him through his illness with all the devotion of a friend.
"I have only lately learned these

facts. But, knowing them as I do and believing that he is as worthy to sit I cannot reconcile the rejection with my own purpose to unite here. I therefore desire to withdraw my application for membership here. Strong. I desire to be baptized and partake of the communion as a disciple

Christ simply, not as a member of Calvary church. Can I do so?"

Philip replied in a choking voice, "You can." The man sat down. It was not the place for any demonstrabut again from the gallery came a slight but distinct note of applause. As before, it instantly subsided as Philip looked up. For a moment every one held his breath and waited for the minister's action. Philip's face was pale and stern. What his sensitive nature suffered in that moment no one ever knew, not even his wife, who almost started from her seat, fearing that he was about to faint. the trustees of his church, who oppose his plan. XIV.—Philip is again visited about Philip's manner so unusual with him that some thought he was going to leave the church. But he quickly called his will to assert its power, and, taking up the regular communion service, he calmly took charge of it as if nothing out of the way had occurred. He did not even allude to the mornthe people might think of Philip they certainly could find no fault with his self possession. His conduct of the service on that memorable Sunday was

When it was over, he was surrounded by different ones who had taken part either for or against the sexton. There was much said about the matter But all the arguments and excuses and comments on the affair could not rethe heartache from Philip. could not reconcile the action of the church with the spirit of the church's Master, Jesus, and when he finally reached home and calmly reviewed the events of the morning he was more and more grieved for the church and for his Master. It seemed to him that a great mistake had been made and that Calvary church had disgraced the name of Christianity.

As he had been in the habit of doing

since he moved into the neighborhood of the tenements, Philip went out the afternoon to visit the sick and the sorrowful. The shutting down of the mills had resulted in an immense amount of suffering and trouble. As spring came on some few of the mills had opened, and men had found work in them at a reduction of wages. entire history of the entorced idleness of thousands of men in Milton during that eventful winter would make a large volume of thrilling narrative. er. He had grown rapidly familiar with the different phases of life which oafed and idled and drank itself away during that period of inaction. ireds of men had drifted away to other places in search of work. Almost as more had taken to the road to

swell the ever increasing number of velop into petty thieves and criminals. But those who remained had a desperate struggle with poverty. Philip grew sick at heart as he went among the people and saw the complete heipless-ness, the utter estrangement sympa-thy and community of feeling between the church people and these represent-atives of the physical labor of the Eveny time he went out to do his visiting this feeling deepened in This Sunday afternoon in partic ular it seemed to him as if the depres-sion and discouragement of the tene-

ment district weighed on him like a

great burden, bearing him down to the

He had been in the habit of going out to communion Sunday with the emblems of Christ to observe the rite bedsides of the aged or ill those who could not get out to church. He carried with him this time a basket ontaining a part of the communion ervice. After going to the homes of two invalid church members he thought of the person who had been nentioned by the man in the morning as living in the tenement district and in a critical condition. He had secured his address, and after a little inquiry he soon found himself in a part of the

tenements near to him.

He climbed up three flights of stairs and knocked at the door. It was open-ed by the sexton. He greeted Philip

The minister smiled sadly. "So, my brother, it is true you are serving your Master here? My heart is grieved at the action of the church this morning."

"Don't say nothing, Mr. Strong You did all you could, but you are just in time to see him." The sexton pointed into a small back room. "He is going fast. I didn't supose he was so I would have asked you to come, but I didn't think he was failing so. Philip followed the sexton into the

however, and at Philip's quiet question concerning his peace with God a smile passed over his face, and he moved his lips. Philip understood him. A sud-

## By Rev. Charles M. Sheldon,

Author of "In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?" "Malcom Kirk," "Robert Hardy's Seven Days," Etc.

and wine, set them on the small table ! He was not dead, and the doctor at once | 'Disciple of Jesus, would you like to "Disciple of Jesus, would you have partake of the blessed communion and was able to speak.

"Take me home," he whispered to his "Take me home," he whispered to his

The gleam of satisfaction in the man's eyes told Philip enough.



The gray shadow of the last enemy was projected into the room.

sexton said in a low voice, "He belonged to the southern Episcopal church in Virginia." Something in the wistful look of the sexton gave Philip an inspiration for what followed. "Brother," he said, turning to the sexton, "what is to hinder your bapturning to the tism and partaking of the communion? Yes, this is Christ's church wherever

his true disciples are.' Then the sexton brought a basin of water, and as he kneeled down by the of the bed Philip baptized him with the words: "I baptize thee, Henry, my brother, disciple of Jesus, into the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Ghost!

"Amen," murmured the man on the

And Philip, still standing as he was, bowed his head, saying, "Blessed Lord Jesus, accept these children of thine, bless this new disciple, and unite our hearts in love for Thee and Thy kingdom as we remember Thee now in this He took the bread and said: "Take,

This is my bo broken for you In the name of the Master, who said these words, eat, remembering His love

The dying man could not lift his Philip gently placed a crumb between his lips. The sexton, still kneeling, partook and, bowing his head between his hands, sobbed. Philip poured out hie hands, sobbed. Philip poured out the wine and said, "In the name of the Lord Jesus, this cup is the new testament in his blood shed for all mankind for the remission of sins." He carried the cup to the lips of the man and then gave to the sexton. The smile on the dying man's face died. The gray ed into the room from the setting sun of death's approaching twilight. son of the old slave master was going to meet the mother of the man who was born into the darkness of slavery, but born again into the light of God, Perhaps, perhaps, he thought, who knows but the first news he would communion? Certain it is that, his hand moved vaguely over the blanket slipped over the edge of the bed fell upon the bowed head of the sexion and remained there as if in benediction. And so the shadow deepened, and at last it was like unto nothing else known to the sons of men on earth, and the spirit leaped out of its clay tenement with the breath of the communion wine still on the lips of

Philip reverently raised the arm and aid it on the bed. The sexton rose, and, while the tears rolled over his face, he gazed long into the countenance of the son of his old master. division of race now; no false and selfish prejudice here. Come, let the neighbors of the dead come in to do the last sad offices to the casket, for the soul of this disciple is in the man-sions of glory, and it shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the darkness of death ever again smite it, for it shall live forever in the light of that Lamb of God who gave Himself for the remission of sins and

the life everlasting.
Philip did what he could on such an It was not an unusual event altogether. He had prayed by many a poor creature in the clutch of the last enemy, and he was familiar with his face in the tenements. But this particular scene had a meaning and left an impression different from any be had When finally he was at liberty to go home for a little rest be fore the evening service, he found himself more than usually tired and sorrowful. Mrs. Strong noticed it as he came in. She made him lie down and urged him to give up his evening

'No, no, Sarah! I can't do that! I am prepared. I must preach! I'll get a nap, and then I'll feel better," he

Mrs. Strong shook her head, but Philip was determined. He slept a little. ate a little lunch, and when the time of service came he went up to the church again. As his habit was, just before the hour of beginning, he went into the little room at the side of the platform to pray by himself. When he came out and began the service, no one could have told from his manner that he was suffering physically. Even Mrs. Strong, who was watching him anxiously, felt relieved to see how quiet and composed

He had commenced his sermon and had been preaching with great eloten minutes when he felt a strange dizziness and a pain in his side that made him catch his breath and clutch the side of the pulpit to keep from falling. It passed away, and he went on. It was only a slight hesita-tion, and no one remarked anything out of the way. For five minutes he spoke with increasing power and feeling. The Suddenly, without any warning threw up his arms, uttered a cry of half suppressed agony and then fell over backward. A thrill of excitement ran through the audience. no one moved; then every one rose. The men in the front pews \*ushed up to the platform. Mrs. Strong was already there. Philip's head was raised. Phil-

directed the proper movement for his removal from the church. As he was

wife, who hung over him in a terror as great as her love for him at that moment. A carriage was called, and he was taken home. The doctor re-mained until Philip was fully con-

'It was very warm, and I was very tired, and I fainted, eh, doctor? First time I ever did such a thing in my life. I am ashamed, I spoiled the service." Philip uttered this slowly and feebly when at last he had recovered enough to know where he was. The doctor looked at him suspicious-

ly. "You never fainted before, eh? Well, if I were you I would take care not to faint again. Take good care of him, Mrs. Strong. He needs rest. Mil-ton could spare a dozen bad men like me better than one like the dominie."
"Doctor," cried Mrs. Strong in sudden fear, "what is the matter? Is this

Not at all. But men like your husband are in need of watching. Take good care of him." "Good care of him! Doctor, he will not mind me! I wanted him to stay at

home tonight, but he wouldn't."
"Then put a chain and padlock on him and hold him in!" growled the surgeon. He prescribed a medicine and went away, assuring Mrs. Strong that Philip would feel much better in the morning. the morning. The surgeon's prediction came true.

Philip found himself weak the next day, but able to get about. In reply to numerous calls of inquiry for the minister Mrs. Strong was able to report that he was much better. About 11 o'clock, when the postman called. Philip was in his study lying on the His wife brought up two letters. One

of them was from his old chum. He read that first. He then laid it down and opened the other.
At that moment Mrs. Strong was called down stairs by a ring at the door. When she had answered it, she

came up stairs again.
As she came into the room she was surprised at the queer look on Philip's face. Without a word he handed her the letter he had just opened and with the same look watched her face as she

CHAPTER XVII. The letter which Philip had received

Rev. Philip Strong, Pastor Calvary

Church, Milton: Dear Sir and Brother-The seminary at Fairview has long been contemplating the addition to its professorship of a chair of sociology. The lack of funds and the absolute necessity of sufficient endowment for such a chair have made to make any definite move in this direc tion. A recent legacy, of which yo have doubtless heard, has made the founding of this new professorship possible. And now the trustees by unanimous vote have united upon you as the man best fitted to fill this chair of sociology. We have heard of your work in Milton and know of it personally. We are assured you are the man for this place. We therefore tender you most heartily the position of professor of sociology at Fairview seminary at a salary of \$2,500 a year and a preliminary year's absence, either abroad of in this country, before you begin actual labors

with the seminary.
With this formal call on the part of the trustees goes the most earnest de-sire on the part of all the professors of the seminary who remember you in your marked undergraduate success as a student here. You will meet with the most loving welcome, and the seminary will be greatly strengthened by your presence in this new depart-ment. We are, in behalf of the seminary, very cordially yours, THE TRUSTEES.

Here followed their names, familiar to both Philip and his wife. There was a moment of astonished silence, and then Sarah said: Philip, that's what I call the

finger of Providence! "Do you call it the finger of Providence because it points the way you want to go?" asked Philip, with a smile. But his face instantly grew so-ber. He was evidently very much excited by the call to Fairview. It had come at a time when he was in a condition to be very much moved by it

"Yes, Philip," replied his wife as she smoothed back his hair from his forehead, "it is very plain to me that you have done all that any one can do here in Milton, and this call comes just in time. You are worn out. The church is opposed to your methods. You need rest and a change, and, besides, ways had a liking for."

Philip said nothing for a moment. His mind was in a whirl of emotion. Finally he said: "Yes; I would enjoy such a professorship. It is a very tempting call. I feel drawn toward it. And yet"-he hesitated-"I don't know that I ought to leave Milton just now. Mrs. Strong was provoked. Strong, you have lived this kind of life long enough! All your efforts in Calvary church are wasted. What good have all your sermons done? It is all vain sacrifice, and the end will be defeat and misery for you. Add to all call for the best and most Christian labor and that some good Christian man will take it if you don't-and I don't see, Philip how you can possibly think of such a thing as refusing this oppor-

tunity. "It certainly is a splendid opportunithey happened to pitch on me for the That's easy enough.

knows that you could fill that chair better than almost any other man in 'Do you mean by 'every one' a little oman of the name of Sarah?" Philip, with a brief return of his teas-

'No, sir. I mean all the professors and people in Fairview and all the thinking people of Milton and every one who knows you, Philip. one knows that whatever else you lack

it isn't brains." 'I'd like to borrow a few just now, though, for I seem to have lost most of Lend me yours, won't you, Sarah, until I settle this question the call

'No, sir. If you can't settle a plain question like this with all your brains,

the leading of the Spirit of God and Mrs. Strong replied with almost tear-

ful earnestness: "Philip, it seems to me like the lead-ing of His hand. Surely you have shown your willingness and your courage and your sacrifice by your work here. But your methods are distasteful and your preaching has so far roused only antagonism. Oh, I dread the thought of this life for you another day. It looks to me like a suicidal policy, with nothing to show for it when

you have gone through with it.' Philip spread the leter out on the couch, and his face grew more and more thoughtful as he gazed into the face of his wife, and his mind went over the ground of his church experience. If only-he was perhaps think-ing-if only the good God had not given him so sensitive and fine tempered a spirit of conscientiousness. He almost envied men of coarse, blunt feelings, of common ideals of duty and service.
His wife watched him anxiously. She knew it was a crisis with him. At last he said:

"Well, Sarah, I don't know but you're right. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. The professorship would be free from the incessant worry and anxiety of a parish, and then I might be just as useful in the seminary as I am here-who knows?' "Who knows, indeed?" exclaimed Sarah joyfully. At the same time she was almost crying. She picked up the letter and called Philip's attention to the clause which granted him a year abroad in case he accepted. "Think of that, Philip! Your dream of foreign travel can come true now "That is"-Philip looked out of the window over the dingy roof of a shed

near by to the gloomy tenements-"that is, supposing I decide to accept." "Supposing! But you almost the same as said—Oh, Philip, say you will! Be reasonable! This is the opportunity of a lifetime!" "That's true," replied Philip.

"You may not have another such chance as this as long as you live. You are young now and with every pros-pect of success in work of this kind. It is new work, of the kind you like. You will have lefsure and means to carry on important experiments and influence for life young men entering the ministry. Surely, Philip, there is as great opportunity for usefulness and sacrifice there as anywhere. It must be that the will of God is in this. It comes without any seeking on your

"Yes, indeed!" Philip spoke with the and which his wife now read was as only touch of pride he ever exhibited. It was pride in the knowledge that he was absolutely free from self glory or self seeking. "Then say you will accept. Say you

will, Philip! The appeal, coming from the person dearest to him in all the world, moved Philip profoundly. He took the letter from her hand, read it over carefully and again laid it down on the couch

"Sarah, I must pray over it. I need a little time. You will have reason"— Philip paused, as his habit sometimes was, and at that moment the bell rang. and Mrs. Strong went down stairs. she went along she felt almost per-suaded that Philip would yield. Some-thing of his tone seemed to imply that the struggle in his mind was nearly

The callers at the door were three men who had been to see Philip sev-eral times to talk with him about the mill troubles and the labor conflict in general. They wanted to see Philip. Mrs. Strong was anxious about the condition of Philip's health. She asked the men to come in and went up stairs "Can you see them? Are you strong

she asked. "Yes; tell them to come up. I am comfortable now."

Philip was resting easily, and after a

careful look at him, Mrs. Strong went down stairs. To her surprise two of the men had

gone. The one who remained ex-plained that he thought three persons would excite or tire the minister more than one. He had stayed and would not trouble Philip very long. But the business on which he came was of such an important nature that he felt obliged to see the minister if he could do so without danger to him.

So the man went up, and Philip greeted him with his usual heartiness, excusing himself for not rising. man took a chair, moved up near the couch and sat down. He seemed a good deal excited, but in a suppressed and cautious way.

"I came to see you, Mr. Strong, to tell you about a thing you ought to know. There is danger of your life Where?" asked Philip calmly.

"Here, in this neighborhood." Well?" Philip waited for Philip waited for more ex-

"I didn't want to tell your wife for fear of scaring her, but I thought you ought to know, Mr. Strong, and then you could take steps to protect yourself or get away."
"Go on. Tell me the worst,"

Philip quietly as the man paused. "Well," the man went on in a low one, "two others and me overheard tone, "two others and me overheard a talk last night by the men who run the Star saloon and den down by the Falls. They have a plan to waylay you, rob you and injure you, sir, and do it in such a way as to make it seem a common hold up. They seemed to know about your habit of going around through the alleys and cross streets of the tenements. We heard streets of the tenements. enough to make us sure they really and truly meant to deal foully by you the first good chance, and we thought best to put you on your guard. The rummies are down on you, Mr. Strong, you have been so outspoken against And your lecture in the hall last week has made them mad, I tell you. They hate you worse than polson, for that's the article they seem to sell and make a living out of. Philip had the week before addressed

a large meeting of workingmen, and in the course of his speech he had called attention to the saloon as one of the greatest foes of the

"Is that all?" Philip asked. "All, man alive! Isn't it enough? What more do you hanker after?" "Of course I don't 'hanker after' being held up or attacked, but these men are mistaken if they think to frighten

They mean more than frighten, Mr. Strong: they mean business."
"Why don't you have them arrested, then, for conspiracy? If you overheard their talk, they are guilty and could be

'Not in Milton, Mr. Strong. Besides. ips. Philip understood him. A sudden thought occurred to Philip. He opened the basket, took out the bread crowd, and he at once examined him. Sarah, that I ought to accept this as shrewd devils. But we could tell they

meant you plain enough. Not to prove which would make me unhappy anything in court, though."

"And you came to warn me? That was kind of you, my brother." Philip spoke with the winsome affection for men that made his hold on common people like the grappling vine with loving tendrils.
"Yes, Mr. Strong, I tell you the rum-

mies will almost hold a prayer meeting when you leave Milton. And they mean to make you trouble enough until you do leave. If I was you"—the man paused curiously—"if I was you, I'd get up and leave this God forsaken town Mr. Stroige". town, Mr. Strong."
"You would?" Philip glanced at the

letter which still lay upon the couch beside him. "Suppose I should say I had about made up my mind to do just

that thing?"
"Oh, no, Mr. Strong, you don't mean that!" The man made a gesture toward Philip that revealed a world of longing and of hunger for fellowship that made Philip's heart throb with a feeling of intense joy, mingled with an ache of pain. The man at once re-pressed his emotion. It had been like a lightning flash out of a summer cloud. "Yes," said Philip, as if continuing, "I have been thinking of leaving Mil-

"That might be best. You're in danger here. No telling when some harm may come to you." I'm thinking I might as well leave. My work here has been a fail-

ure anyway. "What, a failure? Mr. Strong, you don't know the facts. There has never been a minister in Milton who did so much for the poor and the working-man as yourself! Let me tell you," the man continued, with an earnestness that concealed an emotion he was try-ing to subdue, "Mr. Strong, if you were to leave Milton now it would be a greater loss to the common people than you can imagine. You may not know it, but your influence among us is very great. I have lived in Milton as boy and man for 30 years, and I never knew so many laboring men attend church and the lectures in the hall as during the few months you have been Your work here has not been a

failure; it has been a great success."

A tear stole out of Philip's eye and rolled down and fell with a warm splash on the letter which lay beside im. If a \$2,500 call could be drowned by one tear, that professorship in sociology in Fairview seminary was in "So you think the people in this

neighborhood would miss me a little? he asked almost as modestly as if he were asking a great favor.

"Would they, Mr. Strong! You will never know what you have done for them. If the mill men were to hear of your leaving, they would come down here in a body and almost compel you to stay. I cannot bear to think of your going. And yet the danger you are in, the whisky men Philip roused himself up, interrupting his visitor. The old time flash of

righteous indignation shot out of his eyes as he exclaimed: "I m more than half minded to stay on that account! The rummies would think they had out if I left "Oh, Mr. Strong, I can't tell you how glad we would be if you would only stay! And yet--"

"And yet," replied Philip, with a sad smile, "there are many things to take into the account. I thank you out of my heart for the love you have shown



"Your work here has not been a failure; it has been a great success

me. It means more than words can express." And Philip leaned back with wearied look on his face, which nevertheless revealed his deep satisfac-tion at the thought of such friendship as this man had for him.

He was getting exhausted with the interview, following so soon on his illness of the night before. The visitor was quick to notice it, and after a warm clasp of hands he went away. Philip, lying there alone while his wife was busy down stairs, lived an age in a few minutes. All his life so far in Milton, the events of his preaching and his experiences in the church, his contact with the workmen, his evident influence over them, the thought of what they would feel in case he left Milton to accept this new the dissatisfaction thought of the whisky men-all this and much more surged in and out of his mind and heart like heavy tides of a heaving ocean as it rushes into some deep fissure and then flows back again with noise and power. He struggled up into a sitting position and with pain of body almost fell from the couch upon his knees and with his face bowed upon the letter, which he spread out before him with hands, he sobbed out a yearning cry to his Master for light in his darkness. It came as he kneeled down, and it did not seem to him at all strange or to his thought a picture of the Brother Man. And he could almost hear the "Your work is in Brother Man say: Milton, in Cavalry church yet. Except a man shall renounce all that he hath he cannot be His disciple." It mattered not to Philip that the answer to his prayer came in this particular way. He was not superstitious or morbid or given to yellding to impulse or fancy. He lay down upon the souch again and knew in his heart that he was at peace with God and his own conscience in deciding to stay with Cavalry church and refuse the call to

CHAPTER XVIII. When a few minutes later Mrs.

Philip told her exactly how he had decided. "I cannot leave those poor fellows in

the tenements yet. My work is just beginning to count with them. And the church—oh, Sarah, I love it, for it has such possibilities that it must yield in time. And then the whisky men-I cannot bear to have them think me beaten, driven out, defeated. And in addition to all the rest I have a feeling that God has a wonderful blessing in store for me and the church very soon, and I cannot banish the feeling that if I accept the call to Fairview I should always be haunted by that ghost of duty murdered and run away from dearest of all thins to thousands of

my future work. Dear Philip went on as he head down and kissed while tears of disappointment are the dearest of all And my soul tells you leved me troubles with me was that. my duty, my conscience and

The enswer came in a sob of mis anguish and happiness:

"Yes, Philip, but it was only to sake that I wanted to leave It is killing you. Yet" her head, with a smile through tears-"yet, Philip, 'whither will go, and where th will lodge; thy people shall ple and thy God my Ged. diest will I die, and there w buried; the Lord do so to me r also if aught but death part th

could not understand how a pen such refined and even natur sive and luxurious habits ter's wife life he had planned for h idea of Christian living Philip could have told een so minded. And this see have revealed it to any one w the minister and his wife as the That was a sacred scene band and wife, something that belt to them, one of those things which world did not know and had no

ness to know. When the first Sunday of an month had come, Mr. Strong f well again. A rumor of his Fairview had gone out, and to intimate friends who asked him it he did not deny, but he said plunged into work with an and a purpose which spor from his knowledge that he was at h really gaining some influence in The condition of affairs in that held

borhood was growing worse instead better. The amount of vice, drupp ness, crime and brutality made his as sitive heart quiver a hundred time day as he went his way through it His study of the whole question him to the conviction that one of great needs of the place was a home life for the people. The nients were owned and rented by me of wealth and influence. Ma these men were in the church. couraged as he had so often been his endeavor to get the moneyed of the congregation to consecrat property to Christian uses, Philiper up to that first Sunday with a p thase of the same great subject sh pressed so hard for utterance that he

As he faced the church this morning

faced an audience composed of w

could not keep it back.

conflicting elements. of labor were conspicuous in the p leries. People whom he had asso at one time and another were scar seats under the choir gallery. membership was represented by membership who, while opposed to his idea of Christian life and the interpreta Christ, nevertheless continued to and hear him preach. The incides the sexton's application for ship and his rejection by vote had a told somewhat in favor of the mini Many preachers would have resig say about it and then refused to m or be interviewed by the papers on subject. What it cost him was his own secret. But this more person of Christ, the thought of continued suffering and shame a degredation in the tenement district the thought of the great wealth in be used almost to transform the lof thousands of people if the mer riches in Cavalry church

seek the kingdom of God in

inspiration.

mands on them-this voiced his cry

the people and gave his sermon the ap-

"See!" he exclaimed as he went of

after drawing a vivid picture of

builings which could not be cal

miserable condition of

nificence and solemnity of a properly

homes, "see what a change could wrought by the use of a few thousa dollars down there. And here is morning in this house men are sitt who own very many of those ments, who are getting the rent f suffering one single sorrow, will depriving themselves of one necessity or even luxury of life, so change surroundings of these people that would enjoy the physical gave them and be able to see His brethren, is not this your opportu What is money compared with ity? What is the meaning of o cipleship unless we are God has given us to build up his kin dom? The money represented by church could rebuild the entire ment district. The men who owly buildings"- He paused as if t suddenly become aware that he I be saying an unwise thing. I after a brief hesitation, as if he satisfied his own doubt, he repeat "The men who own these tenem and members of other churches sides Calvary are among are guilty in the sight of God lowing human beings made in age to grow up in such horrible roundings when it is in the money to stop it. Therefore they receive greater condemnation at last, when Christ sits on the thron the universe to judge the world will He not say, as He said long y me no meat, naked and ye reeking with filth and disease a drew the hire of these places an ited me not?' For are these me women and children not our breth Verily God will require it a hands, oh, men of Milton, if, having power to use God's property s as in make the world happier and better we refuse to do so and go or wan

careless of our responsibility and selfish in our use of God's money. Philip closed his sermon will an atcount of facts concerning the condition of some of the people he hisself had visited. When the service class, more than than one property owner tent away secretly enraged at the minster's boil and, as most of them said a d thought, "impertinent meddling in their business." Was he wise? And yet he had been the and these men been to more than one of these men in private with the same nessage. Did in private with the same nessage. he not have the right to seak in pub-lic? Did not Christ do ss. Would be not do so if he were the on earth again? And Philip, seebs the great need, seeing the mighty fower of mon-ey, seeing the indifference of these men to the whole matter, eeing their de-termination to conduc their business for the gain of it withut regard to the condition of life, with his heart sore and his soul indignan at the suffe